

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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SUBJECT: NEGOTIATIONS FOR GOVERNMENT ENTER CRUCIAL
PHASE

REF: BRUSSELS 1943

1. NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN BELGIAN SOCIAL CHRISTIANS AND
SOCIALISTS ON ESTABLISHMENT OF A BIPARTITE GOVERNMENT
ARE EXPECTED TO REACH THE CRUCIAL STAGE THIS WEEK FOLLOW-
ING ANNOUNCEMENT BY FORMATEUR LEO TINDEMANS THAT PER-
LIMINARY TALKS WITH THE FOUR PRESIDENTS OF THE FLEMISH
AND FRANCOPHONE WINGS OF THE TWO PARTIES HAD BEEN
COMPLETED SUCCESSFULLY. TINDEMANS RESUMED TALKS APRIL
1, ADDING THREE PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH OF THE PARTY WINGS.

2. INCLUSION IN EXPANDED TALKS OF A PARTY TECHNICIANS,
OF RELATIVELY FEW PERSONS OF MINISTERIAL CALIBER (ONLY
FORMER MINISTERS VANDEN BOEYNANTS, CHABERT, CALIFACE,
AND CLAES), AND OF SOCIALISTS CONSIDERED PARTISANS
OF A PERIOD OF "THERAPEUTIC OPPOSITION" FOR THEIR
PARTY SIGNIFIES THE ONSET OF SERIOUS AND HARD BARGAIN-
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ING WHICH, IF SUCCESSFUL, WILL ENSURE THE FULLEST

POSSIBLE SOCIALIST SUPPORT FOR THE NEW GOVERNMENT.
AMONG SOCIALIST LEADERS, THOSE WHO PREFER PARTICIPA-
TION IN GOVERNMENT HAVE GAINED THE ASCENDENCY IN THEIR
PARTY, WE ARE RELIABLY INFORMED, BUT THEY ALSO SEEK TO
ENSURE THAT A NEW GOVERNMENT RECEIVES THE FIRMEST
POSSIBLE ENDORSEMENT BY A FORTHCOMING SOCIALIST CONGRESS.
IN 1973, DELEGATES TO THE SOCIALIST CONGRESS ENDORSED
THE SOCIALIST-LED GOVERNMENT OF PRIME MINISTER LEBURTON
BY A THIN 57 PERCENT.

3. THE GOAL IS A GOVERNMENT BEFORE EASTER. ACCORDING
TO THE PRIME MINISTER'S CHEF DE CABINET (NOPPEN) CONCERN
FOR THE STABILITY OF THE FRANC AND HENCE FOR EMPLOYMENT
HAS ACTED AS A POWERFUL INCENTIVE TOWARDS EARLY AGREEMENT.
STRAUSZ-HUPE

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